

A collage of images featuring women in various professional and military settings, overlaid with the text "WOMEN IN THE NAVY". The text is rendered in a large, bold, sans-serif font. "WOMEN" and "NAVY" are in a dark blue color, while "IN THE" is in white with a dark blue outline. The background is a light gray with a subtle pattern of overlapping images, including a woman in a military uniform, a woman in a lab coat, and a woman in a flight suit.

**WOMEN  
IN THE  
NAVY**

*A legacy of trailblazers, innovators, and leaders, who continue to inspire.*

March 2022



# Foreword from Linda Gilday

When we moved into Tingey House in late fall of 2019, we had changed the functions of each room, to include a room just off of the dining room, the library. Mike agreed to make the focus on women, and to start a collection of women trailblazers. Luckily two things were available: wall space, and a good acronym: WIN! Women in the Navy was born, and we’ve been excited to learn about and feature so many amazing civilian and military Women in the Navy that are being recognized collectively in this compilation.

This WIN project has two purposes: to collectively honor Navy ‘firsts,’ women - who have been the first in some way: been the first women in their community to do a particular job, or to do it in a unique way. They are women who are still contemporary in their fields today, and those who joined the Navy a decade ago. Each of the women has served with honor and fortitude; they have sacrificed in uniform and in the civilian ranks, and sometimes both! The second primary purpose of this effort is to inspire others, both young schoolchildren and women who’ve already started their naval careers. There is nothing like seeing someone who looks like yourself in a position you aspire to, to know that you can do it too!

WIN history-makers and trailblazers from all parts of the Navy have been honored individually for years, but we didn’t have a collective reference that pulled them together into one document/site/book/or display. Even the Pentagon doesn’t have a full display of this type for Navy women....yet.

We worked with the Navy History and Heritage



Command to create this display and this e-book. Now, with the help of a group we’re calling the ‘WIN Founders Group,’ we are exploring additional ways to grow this project and mentor others. If you know women who’ve contributed to the Navy- we want to know who they are! Send your recommendations to [cno\\_pao\\_staff@us.navy.mil](mailto:cno_pao_staff@us.navy.mil).

We know this is a small representation of Navy Women’s accomplishments, but I know you will enjoy reading about them. We have hopes that this group will grow tremendously over the years, and will inspire everyone about the power of diversity.

Pass along the link to others who may want to learn more about this incredible group.

Congratulations to this growing list of trailblazers!

*Linda Gilday*  
March 1, 2022

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Photo of the Women in the Navy Room at Tingey House, where CNO and Linda live.



# Women in the Navy



## Lt. Marie Lei Acuna

Lt. Marie Lei Acuna is an active duty MH-60S Seahawk pilot who, during her first deployment as part of the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), Carrier Air Wing 5 team, rescued two aircrew who ejected during a training flight in 2018.



## Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Dayna Williams (from left), Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Aerial Lucky, Lt.j.g. Sarah Black, Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Annie Adams

Assigned to the "Ghostriders" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28, this group of women conducted MH-60S Seahawk operations aboard the Blue Ridge-class command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) during a successful deployment in 2019.



## Rear Adm. Lore Aguayo

Rear Adm. Lore Aguayo became the first woman officer to oversee Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Atlantic (2021), and is "dual-hatted" as the U.S. Fleet Forces Civil Engineer. A registered Professional Engineer in the state of Arizona, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Stanford University. Aguayo is also a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Executive Development Program and is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare officer.







## Master Chief Storekeeper Alicia Aitken

Master Chief Storekeeper Alicia Aitken was a pre-commissioning crew member, a plank owner, and the first command master chief of USS Grapple (T-ARS 53) – all during a time when few women were allowed to serve aboard ships. She served aboard USS Grapple from 1985-1991.

## Rear Adm. Annie Andrews

Rear Adm. Annie Andrews was one of the first Black women promoted to rear admiral. After beginning her career in 1983 at Naval Station Whiting Field, Florida, as an administrative officer, she rose to leadership roles and jobs of great significance like officer-in-charge of Navy Personnel Support Activity detachments in the Philippines. She also served as the executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; director of Total Force Requirements Division, Recruit Training Command Great Lakes; and commanding officer of U.S. Navy Recruiting Command. Andrews retired from the Navy in 2013 after 32 years of service. She currently works at the Federal Aviation Administration as assistant administrator for human resources management (2022).



## Chief Warrant Officer Vanderla Akaka

Chief Warrant Officer Vanderla Akaka is a single mother, a 22-year sailor (2022), and a two-time breast cancer survivor. She is one of eight “Pink Power Mom” recipients, a national award that seeks to highlight moms who survived breast cancer and helped their communities. She was the first armed forces recipient chosen for this award. Additionally, she received multiple awards recognizing her excellence, achievements, strength, leadership and dedication to self-improvement. In 2021, Akaka was pinned as a chief warrant officer 5, a rank only held by approximately 80 Sailors.

## Cmdr. Meghan Angermann

Cmdr. Meghan Angermann became the first woman to command a jet training squadron when she took command of Training Squadron 9 (VT-9) in 2020. She retired from the Navy in 2021 after 21 years of service.



## Command Master Chief Dee Allen

Command Master Chief Dee Allen was the Navy’s most senior enlisted woman in 2018 when she served as the command master chief of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Allen enlisted in the Navy in 1986 as an undesignated seaman recruit and was selected to attend Cryptologic Technician Administrative “A” School in Pensacola, Florida. She served at the National Security Agency, Naval Support Group Activity Misawa and Okinawa, Japan, aboard USS Frank Cable (AS 40), USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) and USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79), and also as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Office of Women’s Policy. She retired from the Navy in 2020 after 34 years of service.



## Senior Chief Ruth Audet

Senior Chief Ruth Audet enlisted in the Navy as a Personnel Specialist in 1986. During her 23-year naval career she served at nine duty stations and deployed around the world. Her last active duty assignment was the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Director, Navy Staff. Since retiring from active duty in 2009, Audet began a Navy civilian career and became the scheduler for the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. She later became the scheduler for the Chief of Naval Operations, where she currently serves (2022). Ruth has been the scheduler for three Chiefs of Naval Operations.







## Jennifer Balisle

Jennifer Balisle assumed the role as vice director for Force Structure, Resources and Assessment in 2021. She is responsible for overseeing efforts to evaluate, validate, and align development of joint requirements and capabilities; conduct force structure and warfighting studies and analysis; and evaluate Department of Defense plans, programs and strategies for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She has had a diverse career serving on staffs of the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and Naval Sea Systems Command. Balisle was accepted into the Senior Executive Service in 2015, and is the recipient of two Civilian Meritorious Service Awards and two Civilian Superior Service Awards.



## Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber

Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber was the first Black woman to serve as the U.S. Naval Academy's Brigade Commander, a semester-long position she assumed in 2021. Brigade commander is the highest student leadership position. She was the 16th woman to serve as brigade commander in the 44 years since women have been allowed to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. She graduated and received a commission in the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant.



## Capt. Julia Barnes

Capt. Julia O. Barnes was the first Black woman Nurse Corps officer to command a Naval hospital, when she took command of Naval Hospital Great Lakes, Illinois (1986). She was also among the visionaries who founded the National Naval Officers Association (1972), which actively supports the Sea Services in recruiting, retaining, and developing a diverse officer corps.

## Rear Adm. Danelle Barrett

Rear Adm. Danelle Barrett earned her commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. As an admiral, Barrett served as director of Current Operations at U.S. Cyber Command, and as the Navy Cyber Security Division director and deputy Chief Information Officer on the Chief of Naval Operations staff in 2017. She led the Navy's strategic development and execution of digital and cyber security efforts, enterprise information technology improvements and cloud policy and governance for 700K personnel across a global network. An innovator, she implemented visionary digital transformation to modernize with unprecedented speed, significantly improving Navy Information Warfare capabilities. She was involved in many military operations: deployments to Iraq, on an aircraft carrier supporting combat operations in Afghanistan, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.



## Cmdr. Elizabeth Barrett

Cmdr. Elizabeth Barrett became the highest ranking woman naval officer in Vietnam and the first to assume a command billet in the U.S. Navy in a combat zone in 1972. She was the commanding officer, enlisted personnel of the U.S. Naval Advisory Group, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam in Saigon.



## Capt. Emily Bassett

Capt. Emily Bassett currently serves as the Force Nuclear Propulsion Officer at Naval Air Force, Pacific (2022). Recognized for her work in bringing people together from across the Navy, she leads a mentoring and connection group called "Lean On Navy." A 2009 Olmsted Scholar, she has served in a number of challenging assignments, including as Reactor Officer for the USS Ford (CVN 78), and commanding officer of the USS Manchester (LCS 14).







### Lt. Cmdr. Kayla Barron

A 2010 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Lt. Cmdr. Kayla Barron became one of the first women to qualify as a submarine officer aboard USS Maine (SSBN 741). Barron was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. She reported to NASA in 2017 and completed the initial astronaut candidate training, and is currently serving as mission specialist of the NASA SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station, which launched in November 2021. She is the fifth woman who graduated from the Naval Academy to be selected as an astronaut candidate.

**“She is the fifth woman who graduated from the Naval Academy to be selected as an astronaut candidate.”**

### Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt

A 1994 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt became the first woman commanding officer of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier when she took command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) (2021). Bauernschmidt was also the first woman to serve as the executive officer of an aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, a position she held from 2016 to 2019.



### Rev. Dianna Bell

Upon joining the Navy in 1973, Rev. Dianna Pohlman Bell became the Department of Defense’s first woman military chaplain. She served from 1973 to 1976. She was assigned to Naval Training Center in Orlando and motivated, guided and helped new recruits.



### Rear Adm. Heidi Berg

A 1991 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, Rear Adm. Heidi Berg commissioned as a cryptologic warfare officer. Fluent in Russian and Arabic, Berg received a Master of Philosophy in Modern Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic from St. Antony’s College, Oxford University. She served on airborne, surface and subsurface platforms, commanded at multiple levels, supported U.S. and partner space capabilities, and served in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. She was selected as a flag officer in 2018. She currently serves as director, Plans and Policy, J5, U.S. Cyber Command (2022).







## Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo

A woman of many firsts, Fleet Master Chief April Beldo has enabled generations of leaders to achieve their goals and dreams. Beldo was the first woman command master chief (CMC) of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, in 2006; the first Black woman CMC to be assigned to an aircraft carrier (USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)) in 2009; the first woman and first Black force master chief (FORCM) for Naval Education and Training Command in 2012; and the first woman to be the Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education (MPT&E) fleet master chief in 2017. She retired in 2017 after 34 years of service.

**“...first woman CMC of RTC Great Lakes...”**

## Juliet Beyler

Juliet Beyler is an SES and the executive director for U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa (2021). In 1984, she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a Korean cryptologic linguist and intelligence analyst for ten years before receiving her commission as one of the Marine Corps’ first women to become a combat engineer officer. Over the course of her Marine Corps career she completed numerous deployments around the world to locations such as Thailand, Russia, Haiti, the Philippines, and the Balkans. She commanded three times and served two combat tours in Iraq as a commanding officer and battalion operations officer. Before rejoining the Department of Defense after a 23-year military career, Beyler served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb. At the Office of the Secretary of Defense, she led the Department’s five-year effort to open all military positions to women.



## Rear Adm. Linda Bird

Rear Adm. Linda J. Bird, was the first woman in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps promoted to flag rank (1998). Commissioned through the Naval Officer Candidate School in 1974, she served aboard USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Puget Sound (AD 38) and a variety of shore locations to include Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP); director of Navy Defense Business Operations Fund Division; NAVSUP deputy commander for financial management/comptroller; vice commander of Naval Supply Systems Command; and director of Supply, Ordnance and Logistics Operations Division, N41, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. She was nominated for the rank of rear admiral (upper half) in 2002 and retired from the Navy in 2005 after 31 years of service.



## Capt. Debra Bodenstedt

Capt. Debra Bodenstedt qualified as a scuba, surface-supplied, and mixed gas diver in 1983. In 1984, she became the first woman to qualify as a submarine rescue chamber operator, and was the first woman to command the Consolidated Divers Unit in San Diego from 1998–2000. Bodenstedt worked on the Space Shuttle Challenger recovery in 1986 and dove on the USS Monitor (an iron-clad warship built for the Union Army during the Civil War) salvage expedition in 2001. She was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2002.







## Ima Black

During World War II, Ima Black enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 as a Storekeeper under the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) program. She was stationed at Naval Air Station Washington (Anacostia) and worked as a cashier in the Ships Service Store, a forerunner of the Navy Exchange. After achieving the rank of Storekeeper 1st Class, Ima was honorably discharged in 1947 and then began a career as a civilian with the NEX where she continued supporting service members and their families. It was at her job in Anacostia in 1949, where she met Gunner's Mate Delbert "Del"

**"In 2007, Ima was named an honorary master chief...."**

Black -- long before he became the Navy's first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Ima was an active military spouse throughout Del's career and has continued to play an integral role in the Navy after Del's passing in 2000. Ima is credited with creating the three-star master chief insignia that continues to distinguish MCPON from all other master chiefs. Yearly, she travels to educate newly selected chief petty officers during CPO Initiation season about how MCPON helped shape the Navy. In 2007, Ima was named an honorary master chief for her role in the development of countless chief petty officers.

## Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar

A 1985 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar retired in 2021 after serving as the Commander, Navy Region Southwest. Designated as a Navy special operations officer (EOD/diving and salvage), Bolivar served aboard five salvage ships, including commanding USS Salvor (ARS 52). In 2003, she became the first woman to command Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One. Among her many personal awards, she received recognition as the Chief of Naval Operations' Pacific Fleet finalist for the Vice Adm. James Stockdale Leadership Award and was a 2005 inductee into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. She retired from the Navy in 2021 after 36 years of service.



## Master Chief Mary Bonnin

Master Chief Electrician's Mate Mary Bonnin earned her initial diving qualification in 1977. She graduated from First Class Diving School in 1981 at the top of her class, received the Honor Person designation, and was the first woman to qualify as a Diver First Class. During her seven years as a Navy diving instructor, Bonnin trained more than 1,000 divers. In 1990, she earned the title of Master Diver, and became the first woman Master Diver. She was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2001.



## Vice Adm. Raquel C. Bono

Vice Adm. Raquel Cruz Bono was the first woman Navy medical officer to achieve the rank of three-star admiral, and was the second director of the Defense Health Agency. Bono graduated from medical school in 1983 and then completed her surgical internship and residency at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. Bono deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. In 2020, Bono was named by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee to lead the state health system's response to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.







## Ann Bradford Stokes

After escaping from slavery in 1863, Ann Bradford Stokes was captured and taken aboard the Union hospital ship USS Red Rover. After President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, she volunteered as a nurse with the Sister of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame. Stokes became the first Black woman to serve aboard a U.S. military vessel, and was among the first women to serve as a nurse in the Navy. Officially rated as a “first-class boy,” a rank given to young men under seventeen who performed general sailor duties, she became the first woman to apply and be granted a pension based on her own military service in 1890.



## Vice Adm. Robin Braun

Vice Adm. Robin Braun became the first woman to command the U.S. Navy Reserve when she took command in 2012. The daughter of a career naval aviator and born in Pensacola, Florida, she graduated from Northern Arizona University and commissioned in 1980. Designated a naval aviator in 1981, Braun served as an instructor pilot, mission commander, aircraft commander and instructor pilot in the EC-1300Q aircraft. Braun also served as commanding officer of VR-48, Naval Air Facility Washington, D.C., Navy Air Logistics Office, Navy Reserve Carrier Strike Group 10 supporting the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), and Joint Task Force Katrina and Tactical Support Center 0793, supporting Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 5. Her Flag assignments include deputy commander, Navy Recruiting Command; director, Total Force Management for the deputy CNO for information dominance and deputy director of operations, U.S. European Command, Germany. She retired from the Navy in 2016 after 36 years of service.



## Rear Adm. Susan BryerJoyner

A Naval officer since 1991, plank owner of the Information Professional Community and two-time recipient of the Copernicus Award, Rear Adm. Susan BryerJoyner currently serves as the Director, Enterprise Networks and Cybersecurity Division at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (2021). During her distinguished career, she is battle-tested. She has deployed to the high north and Norwegian Seas for the Navy’s first Dynamic Force Employment deployment, as well as to the Mediterranean, Arabian Sea, Indo-Pacific, and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Tomodachi.

## Cmdr. Becky Calder

A 1998 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Cmdr. Becky Calder served as an F/A-18 Hornet pilot. She was one of the first women, and the first woman pilot, to graduate from the Navy’s Strike Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) [Cmdr. Elizabeth Malecha, a Naval Flight Officer, was the first woman to graduate TOPGUN]. During her 15 years as a pilot she supported Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the Naval Academy, she played varsity basketball and was the first woman to have her varsity number retired. She is currently serving in the Navy Reserve at Navy Reserve Center Guam.



## Cmdr. Ashley Carline

Cmdr. Ashley Carline, a surface warfare officer, served as the Chief of Naval Operations’ Flag Aide from 2018 –2020. She is the first Black woman to serve as Aide-de-Camp for two different Chiefs of Naval Operations. Carline went on to serve as a Navy legislative fellow.



## Capt. Victoria Anne Cassano

Capt. Victoria Anne Cassano was the first woman to become a qualified Diving Medical Officer (1985). She completed Submarine SCUBA School in Groton, Connecticut in 1982 and earned her doctorate in medicine in 1984, before becoming a diving medical officer. In 1987, she became one of the first women to earn a submarine warfare medical corps qualification or “dolphins.” Cassano later became the first woman to command the Naval Undersea Medical Institute from 2000-2003. In 2004 she became board-certified in Undersea Medicine. She was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2004.







### Master Chief Navy Counselor Kimberly Cedar

Master Chief Navy Counselor Kimberly Cedar serves as the Reserve Force Career Counselor at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (2022). She is responsible for training and mentoring all 250 career counselors across the Reserve force, while simultaneously serving as an inspiration to women at every leadership level.



### Master Chief Navy Career Counselor (Recruiter) Heather K. Charara

Master Chief Heather Charara attained the rank of master chief petty officer in 14 years of service and became the fastest woman to promote to the rank of master chief in the Career Recruiter Force rating in 2015. She went on to perform the duties as the chief recruiter at Navy Recruiting District Miami and led the district in attaining their first Gold “R” award in 2018, presented to the top recruiting district in the nation. In 2020, she was nominated and selected as Navy Recruiting Command’s National Chief Recruiter, the first woman to hold this position.



### Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield became the first woman to lead the Naval War College (2019), where she serves as its 57th President. Chatfield was also the first commanding officer of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 25. She subsequently commanded a joint provincial reconstruction team in Farah Province, Afghanistan in 2008, and was type wing commander of HSC Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet from 2011-2013. Chatfield also commanded Joint Region Marianas from 2017-2019. She was one of a few flag officers who attained their doctorate while on active duty.

### Master Chief Yeoman (Submarines) Cassie Clark

Master Chief Cassie Clark was among the first women assigned to submarines, and later became the first woman promoted to Master Chief Yeoman (Submarines) (2020). She served as the leading Yeoman assigned to the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (Gold), and served as the leading Yeoman at Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet until she retired in 2021 after 26 years of service.



### Capt. Elaine Collins

Capt. Elaine Collins recently served as the commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9 (2022). A 1996 NROTC Washington State University graduate, Collins served in multiple roles at sea, including aboard USS Momsen (DDG 92) as the commanding officer. Collins deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of UN Security Council Resolutions, Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She also deployed to 7th Fleet in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, and to 6th Fleet in support of Standing NATO Maritime Group Two and Operation Active Endeavor.



### Yeoman 1st Class Gina Colombo

Yeoman 1st Class Gina Colombo’s full-time support (2022) at Regional Component Command Great Lakes, Illinois, shares her 23 years of Navy experience with Sailors heading out to the fleet for active and Reserve support. In her main role as leading petty officer of the RCC’s operations and training departments, Colombo uses her expertise to take care of the more experienced Sailors located throughout the 23 Navy Operational Support Centers across her region. She manages the daily requests for orders and travel support and ensures NOSC’s are up to date on the Navy Reserve’s latest policies and procedures.







## Gladys Commons

In 1994, Gladys Commons was named Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management), a post she held for eight years until 2002. She served as acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management) in 1998.

**“In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Commons as Assistant Secretary of the Navy...”**

In 2002, she became Comptroller of the Military Sealift Command. She retired from federal service in 2004. In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Commons as Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management & Comptroller), where she served until 2013.

## Capt. Kathlene Contres

Capt. Kathlene Contres was the highest-ranking Hispanic-American woman officer in the U.S. Navy until her retirement in 2010 after 30 years of service. She was the first Hispanic-American woman officer to command the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. Contres selflessly and with great determination opened doors to generations of women who followed in her footsteps. She also served as president of the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO), an organization dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of Hispanics and Latinos across all ranks of the sea services.



## Rear Adm. Jennifer Couture

Rear Adm. Jennifer Couture is the commander of Naval Service Training Command (2022). Couture previously commanded Destroyer Squadron 28 and USS Kauffman (FFG 59). She holds degrees from George Washington University and Old Dominion University, and is a recognized leader in the Surface Warfare community and an inspiration to many.



## Lt. j.g. Amber Cowan (right) Lt. j.g. Jennifer Noonan (center)

Lt. j.g. Amber Cowan and Lt. j.g. Jennifer Noonan (USS Maine [SSBN 741], Blue Crew), along with Lt. j.g. Marquette Leveque (USS Wyoming [SSBN 742], Gold Crew), not shown, became the first women unrestricted line officers to qualify as submarine warfare officers in 2012.







### Lt. Susan Ahn Cuddy

Lt. Susan Ahn Cuddy joined the Navy in 1942 after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. She became the first woman Asian-American to serve in the Navy and the first woman gunnery officer. During World War II, she served as an instructor in both combat air tactics and the use of the .50 caliber machine gun. She subsequently worked at U.S. Naval Intelligence as a code breaker and at the National Security Agency during the Cold War.



### Cmdr. Kim DaCosta-Azar

Cmdr. Kim DaCosta-Azar was the third “skipper” and first woman to become the commanding officer of the Navy’s only Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP-19) when she took command in 2018. She won the Joy Bright Hancock award in 2020 for her leadership, specifically for her initiatives to retain aviators throughout pregnancy and parenthood. She created a pregnancy and parenthood program recognizing concerns from women in her command about remaining competitive in their careers while balancing family. She also worked with Naval Air Forces to remove barriers and change established instructions to allow pregnant women to continue flying (unmanned) into their third trimester. DaCosta-Azar currently serves at the U.S. State Department (2022) at the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation in the Office of Counter Proliferation Initiatives.



### Master Chief Cecilia Daley

Master Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Cecilia Daley joined the Navy in 1976 through the delayed entry program as an Aviation Ordnanceman (AO). After graduating AO ‘A’ School and years of mastering her trade, she was the first woman to become a master chief aviation ordnanceman in the Navy. She was among the first group of women assigned to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in 1994, when combat ships first became open to women. She spent 23 years on active duty service with the Navy, and after retiring, she continued her focus on proper procedure as the Reserve force safety director.

### Capt. Sue S. Dauser

Capt. Sue Dauser became the first woman promoted to captain in the U.S. Navy in 1942. A 1914 graduate of the California School of Nursing, she became a Navy nurse in 1917 and served in the U.S. and in Scotland during World War I, holding the grade of chief nurse for most of that period. Following the War, she was placed in charge of nursing activities at the U.S. Naval Hospital at San Diego, California. During the 1920s, Dauser served aboard several ships and in overseas, as well as U.S. facilities. She tended to President Warren G. Harding during his fatal illness in 1923. Dauser served as the fifth Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps from 1939-1945, and guided the Navy Nurse Corps through WWII. She retired from the Navy in 1945 after 28 years of service.



### Rear Adm. Yvette Davids (left) Capt. Shanti Sethi Cmdr. Teresa Elders

All three women served on USS Higgins (DDG 76) under then-Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mike Gilday. Davids served as executive officer, Sethi as combat systems officer, and Elders as operations officer. Currently, Davids served as U.S. Southern Command chief of staff (2022), Sethi serves as the senior military advisor to the Secretary of the Navy (2022), and Elders passed away in 2018 after a long battle with ovarian cancer.



### Capt. Kim Davis

Capt. Kim Davis is the commanding officer of Naval Medical Readiness and Training Command San Diego (2022). She has served in various positions throughout Navy Medicine, to include Naval Medical Center San Diego Associate Ophthalmology residency program director, Transitional Year Internship program director, Navy Surgeon General’s Medical Corps specialty leader on Intern Matters, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth director of Public Health Services and director of Surgical Services, executive officer at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, and commander, 4th Fleet Surgeon. She holds the designation of Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer and designators for Commander, Amphibious Task Force Surgeon, Global Health Specialist, and Joint Medical Executive Skills Program - Executive Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American College of Surgeons, and American Glaucoma Society. Davis served on the Women in Ophthalmology Board of Directors and received recognition as the 2014 Military Health System Navy Junior Female Physician Leader of the Year. She received the 2017 ACHE Navy Regent Senior-level Healthcare Executive Award.







## Master Chief Yeoman Anna Der-Vartanian

Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian became the first woman in the U.S. Armed Forces to be promoted to the rank of master chief in 1959. In 1943, Der-Vartanian joined the U.S. Navy as an apprentice seaman in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). She served at Great Lakes, Illinois, Naval Station Treasure Island, the Public Information Office in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Parachute Rigger and Aerograph schools at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, and other administrative roles. Following promotion to master chief, she became the first woman to serve as chief clerk in the Office of U.S. National Military Representative, SHAPE, in Paris, France. She then served at the Legal Office at Naval Station Washington before her retirement from the Navy in 1963 with 20 years of service.



## Vice Adm. Nanette DeRenzi

Vice Adm. Nanette DeRenzi became the first woman Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Navy when she took command in 2012. Commissioned through the Judge Advocate General Corps Student Program and a graduate of Temple University School of Law in 1986, DeRenzi began her career as a litigator; first as a defense counsel and later as a trial counsel (prosecution) in Newport, Rhode Island. Following assignments include appellate defense and civil litigation in Washington, D.C.; fleet judge advocate to commander, U.S. 7th and 3rd Fleets; as well as staff judge advocate to commander, Carrier Group 7. Before her appointment to flag rank, she served as the senior staff judge advocate for commander, U.S. Southern Command; special assistant for legal and legislative matters to the secretary of the Navy; legislative counsel for environmental programs in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs; and executive assistant to the JAG. In command, she served as commanding officer, Naval Legal Service Office, North Central. She retired from the Navy in 2015 after 31 years of service.



## Lt. Edith DeVoe

Lt. Edith DeVoe was the second Black woman admitted to serve in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps during World War II. She was the first Black nurse to be admitted to the regular Navy, instead of the Women's Reserve, or Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES); and was the first Black nurse to serve in the Navy outside mainland United States, at Tripler Army-Navy Medical Center in Hawaii.

## Fleet Master Chief Jackie DiRosa

In 2006, Fleet Master Chief Jacqueline DiRosa was the first woman promoted to fleet master chief. She served as force master chief of Navy Medicine and director of the Hospital Corps in 2002. She was the first woman in Navy history selected for both force and fleet master chief. A native of Mount Olive, Illinois, she entered the Navy in 1981 and rose to Chief Hospital Corpsman in eight years. She retired from the navy in 2011 after 30 years of service.



## Rear Adm. Alene Bertha Duerk

Rear Adm. Alene Bertha Duerk was the first woman promoted to admiral in the U.S. Navy in 1972. She heard the news about her promotion to rear admiral on the radio in her car. From that time on, she was not only an admiral, but she was a spokeswoman for all women in the Navy. In that role, she frequently made appearances and statements in support of Navy women, fighting for pay increases, better conditions, and recruiting nurses. She was also the director of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps from 1970 to 1975. Duerk is the 1974 recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. She retired from active duty in 1975 after 32 years of service.



## Cyndy Duscio

Cyndy Duscio, information system security manager and cybersecurity workforce program manager for Surface Combat Systems Training Command, was selected as the Headquarters Civilian of the Year for 2021. As the sole ISSM for SCSTC, Duscio was instrumental in getting the Aegis Modernization Operator Trainer into the building, a major accomplishment that was critical for ready, relevant learning training solutions. She plays a key role in executing the future of combat systems training.







## Steffanie Easter

Steffanie Easter became both the first civilian and the first woman to serve as director, Navy Staff Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in 2018. She previously served as the assistant deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, where she was the civilian executive advisor for the planning and programming of all manpower, personnel, training, and education resources, budgeting for Navy personnel and developing the information systems and tools to effectively

**“...the first woman to serve as director, Navy Staff Office of the Chief of Naval Operations...”**

manage the Navy Total Force. Easter was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2002 and has more than 30 years of Federal Service. She was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2007, the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2009, and the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2013. She is also the recipient of the 2009 National Women of Color Award for Managerial Leadership, and the 2010 recipient of the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement.

## Command Master Chief Sandra Dyal

Master Chief Dyal was the sixth woman to serve as an Aviation Ordnanceman Master Chief. In 2013, she deployed with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 7 as the command senior enlisted leader during USS Harry S. Truman Strike Group's 2013 deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2015, she reported to the USS New York (LPD 21) as command master chief. The crew earned the 2016 Retention Excellence Award, the Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic's 2016 Battle Effectiveness Award, and the 2016 Commander Naval Region Southeast Community Service Award, under her leadership. In 2017, she reported to the USS America (LHA 6) as command master chief. She led the crew through its maintenance availability, a successful homeport shift to Sasebo, Japan, and was often lauded “Best on the Waterfront,” as America's crew soared through certification phases. Command Master Chief Sandra Dyal is now assigned to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing where she serves as the command master chief (2022).



## Capt. Ruth Alice Erickson

Capt. Ruth Erickson joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1936. During her career she served on the hospital ship USS Relief (AH 1), witnessed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and served on the hospital ship USS Haven (AH 12), while bringing home prisoners of war from Japan in 1945. Erickson moved through positions of increasing responsibility, including nursing supervisor, senior nurse and Assistant Chief of Nursing Services at various naval hospitals. She was Nurse Corps representative in the 12th Naval District and Military Sea Transport Service, and personnel officer for the Nurse Corps at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C. She served as chief nurse at three major naval hospitals and became the director of the Navy Nurse Corps. She retired from the Navy in 1966 after 30 years of service.



## Rear Adm. Marsha Evans

In 1973, Rear Adm. Marsha Evans became the first woman surface assignments officer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, while concurrently serving as senior Navy social aide to the President. Following selection as a Chief of Naval Operations Scholar in 1975, Evans earned a master's degree in law and diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. In 1990, she assumed command of Naval Station Treasure Island in San Francisco, becoming the first woman to command a U.S. naval station. In 1992, she became the executive director of the Standing Committee on Military and Civilian Women in the Department of the Navy, where she chaired a task force that developed a strategy to address gender-based issues in the U.S. Navy following Tailhook. She retired from the Navy in 1998 after nearly 30 years of service. She then served as executive director of the Girl Scouts of the USA from 1998 to 2002, and president and CEO of the American Red Cross from 2002 to 2005.







## Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Faires

Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Faires piloted the first all-woman combat mission of an E-2C aircraft for the U.S. Navy in 2012 when she and four crew members completed a multiple-hour mission of tactical combat management, airborne advanced warning, and command and control services over Afghanistan. She is the recipient of the 2016 Purdue Engineering Alumni Association Young Engineering Alumnus Award. She is currently serving as an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer (2022).



## Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell

A 2004 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell became the first woman to command the USS Constitution (2022), the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's ship of state.



## Cmdr. Maureen Farren

In 1998, Cmdr. Maureen A. Farren was the first woman commanding officer of a combatant ship, USS Mount Vernon (LSD 39).

## First All-Women Crew for an MH-60R Training Flight

Navy pilots and aircrew from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 49 and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 41 pose for a photo before taking off on the first all-women crew MH-60R Sea Hawk training flight in 2021. HSM-49 and HSM-41 provide vertical-launched anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities to carrier strike groups, amphibious ready groups and independently deployed naval vessels.



## First All-Woman "Missing [Wo]man Formation"

Members of NAS Oceana squadrons conducted the first all-woman "Missing [Wo]man Formation" during a flyover in 2019 to honor the life and memory of naval aviation pioneer Capt. Rosemary Mariner. Pictured in the back row (left to right) are Lt. Christy Talisse, Lt. Emily Rixey, Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Hesling, Lt. Kelly Harris, Lt. Amanda Lee. Sitting in the front row are Lt. Cmdr. Danielle Thiriot, Cmdr. Stacy Uttecht, Cmdr. Leslie Mintz, and Lt. Cmdr. Paige Blok.



## First All-Woman Seabee Construction Team

Assigned in late 2011 to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, this was the first all-woman Seabee construction team (as part of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR). They built an operations center, gym, and two barracks huts a week ahead of schedule. The team consisted of Petty Officer 3rd Class Gafayat Moradeyo, Petty Officer 3rd Class Amber Mann, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica Vera, Petty Officer 3rd Class Kadisha Lee, Seaman Kacie Dunlavey, Constructionman Shelby Lutrey, Seaman Shayla Miles and Seaman Carla Diazcastillo.







## First Enlisted Women in the Navy

Recruited to serve for the duration of World War I in order to free up male personnel for duty at sea, nearly 11,000 women were in uniform by Armistice Day (1918). Although they were subsequently discharged following the war's end, they paved the way for the establishment of the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service in World War II and the integration of women into the regular Navy in 1948.



## First women assigned to flight instruction at Naval Air Station Pensacola

Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen, Ensign Jane M. Skiles, Lt. j.g. Judith A. Neuffer, and Ensign Kathleen L. McNary were the first women assigned to flight instruction at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, in 1973. Allen subsequently became the first woman to receive her Wings of Gold.



## Rear Adm. Lilian Fishburne (Middle)

Rear Adm. Lilian Fishburne, shown middle in the photo taken in 2015, was the first Black woman to hold the rank of rear admiral. Appointed by President Bill Clinton (1998), Fishburne retired from the Navy in 2001. (Also shown in the photo are Rear Adm. Annie Andrews, left, and Adm. Michelle Howard).

## Master Chief Linda Fox

Master Chief Petty Officer Linda Fox joined the Navy in 1974. She quickly made rank and in 1984 was the only woman at her command promoted to chief. Five years later, she attained the rank of master chief. Fox is the first woman to qualify on the 40mm saluting battery. When Fox retired from the Navy in 1995, she started working for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program at Hampton Roads, Virginia, high school. In 2006, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. During her recovery she made the decision to complete 1,000 races. She hit her goal during a Sept. 11 Remembrance Run in 2017. Fox is a volunteer with an agency dedicated to helping physically and mentally challenged children and adults experience the thrill of competitive running, and she continues to serve as a volunteer JROTC instructor.



## Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti

Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti earned her commission in 1985 through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Northwestern University. She was promoted to the rank of vice admiral in 2018 and commanded the U.S. 6th Fleet, while also serving as the deputy commander for U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa and Commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO. Franchetti has also served as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea; commander Carrier Strike Group 9; commander, Carrier Strike Group 15; and chief of staff, Joint Staff, J-5, Strategy, Plans and Policy, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Development, N7. She assumed duties as director for Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5), Joint Staff in 2020.



## Command Master Chief Susan (Sanson) Fritz

Command Master Chief Susan (Sanson) Fritz was the first woman to become command master chief of an aviation squadron, when she was assigned to Sea Control Squadron 22 (VS-22), an S-3B Viking squadron that deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower (CVN 69), the first combatant ship with women on board. Fritz also served as the command master chief for Naval District Washington before her retirement from the Navy in 2004 after 30 years of service.







## Cmdr. Juliane Gallina

A 1992 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Juliane Gallina became the first woman to serve as a USNA brigade commander in 1991. After serving in the Navy for 21 years and retiring as a Reserve officer in 2013, Gallina then spent 10 years with the National Reconnaissance Office as a senior system engineer and program manager and later as deputy program director, and became the vice president of IBM. She became the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief information officer in 2019.



## Personnelman Seaman Kati Garner

Personnelman Seaman Kati Garner was the first woman to become a Navy scuba diver in U.S. military history (1973). After Garner graduated scuba school, she received her diploma and her Navy diver badge. Garner was assigned to Coronado Air Station, California, where she taught survival at sea to air crewmen and pilots. She later worked at the Navy Marine Mammal Program in the training detachment.

## Yeoman 1st Class Ann Geiman

Yeoman 1st Class Ann Geiman founded the first officially chartered LGBT-straight alliance in U.S. military history called GLASS (Gay, Lesbian and Supporting Service members). Shortly after the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Geiman realized the military was lacking support and mentorship for gay service members, so she started a group in Great Lakes, Illinois. The program has now grown to all military branches and six countries. Geiman is currently serving in the Navy Reserve, supporting Commander, Naval Forces Europe-Africa (2022).



## Senior Chief Erica Gibson

Senior Chief Naval Aircrewmen Tactical-Helicopter Erica Gibson was the first woman aviation Navy Search and Rescue (SAR) swimmer to become a senior chief petty officer (2018). Gibson is a mother of three and serves in the Navy reserve. She is currently assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28 in San Diego (2022).



## Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Megan Green

Aboard USS Monterey (CG 61), Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Megan Green led and trained junior Sailors and officers on anchoring, small, boat, search and rescue, and flight deck operations, during a high intensity deployment (2021). She safely executed more than 1,000 hours of flight operations including Launch and Recovery, which was critical in the successful operation of Monterey's weapons seizure, multilateral operations, and critical escort duties in the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility. Green coordinated and led the Navy stand-down for combating extremism in the ranks, and has facilitated many command climate assessment surveys and focus groups, resulting in more cohesive and unified teams aboard Monterey.



## Rear Adm. Katherine L. Gregory

A 1982 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Rear Adm. Katherine Gregory became the first woman to serve as the executive officer (1995) and commanding officer of an active duty Seabee battalion. She was also the first woman to command Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Pacific (2010); the Civil Engineer Corps' (CEC) first woman flag officer (2009), and the first woman chief of the CEC (2012). Gregory was among the first women to join the Seabees in 1986, where she served as a company commander and was the only woman officer with just a few women enlisted in the company. She supported the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and took part in relief efforts following both Hurricane Katrina (2005) and the Haiti earthquake (2010). She retired from the Navy in 2015 after 34 years of service.







### Petty Officer 3rd Class Peggy Sue Griffith

Petty Officer 3rd Class Peggy Sue Griffith holds the distinction of being the first enlisted woman to report for duty aboard a ship. She was one of more than 60 women assigned to USS Sanctuary (AH 17) in 1972 as part of a pilot program to evaluate the possibility of women serving on board ships.



### Rear Adm. Alma Grocki

A 1981 Naval Academy graduate, Rear Adm. Grocki was the first woman from Hawaii to enter the academy. She served in a succession of warship and submarine maintenance postings before transferring to the United States Navy Reserve in 1988. Grocki commanded various U.S. Navy facilities, shipyards and programs before becoming director of fleet maintenance for the United States Pacific Fleet and deputy commander of Naval Sea Systems Command. Grocki retired in 2016, at which point she was the senior engineering duty officer (EDO) in the U.S. Navy Reserve. She played a key role in the creation of insignia for EDOs, which was authorized for wear in 2018. In her civilian career she has worked for CACI Dynamic Systems and also serves voluntarily as a blue and gold officer for the Naval Academy and serves on the Board of Directors for the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



### Capt. Gail Harris

Capt. Gail Harris served as the first woman intelligence officer in a Navy aviation squadron in 1973. In 1979, Harris became the first Black woman instructor at the Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado. In 1989, she became the first Black and the first woman to lead the Intelligence Department for Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron in Rota, Spain. She was the highest-ranking Black woman in the U.S. Navy upon her retirement in 2001.



### Nancy Gunderson

Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) Director of Contracts presented by the President, is awarded to those senior executives who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, accomplishments and service over an extended period of time. As one of the most prestigious awards in the federal career civil service, this rank is notably presented to only five percent of Senior Executive Service career members.

Nancy Gunderson received the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award for her ability to lead change and achieve measurable results in an effort to deliver effective and efficient services across NAVWAR and the Navy. The Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award...





### Capt. Joy Bright Hancock

Capt. Joy Bright Hancock served as a Yeoman (F) during World War I. She worked at the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics during the interwar period, was commissioned as an officer in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) and served as Director of the WAVES during World War II. She became the first woman to hold a regular commission in the U.S. Navy (1948). She was instrumental in crafting and securing passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of the U.S. armed forces. Hancock retired from the Navy as a captain in 1953.

**“Capt. Hancock served as Director of the WAVES during World War II...”**

### Capt. Christina Hicks

Capt. Christina Hicks is an information warfare officer and the daughter of a Navy chief. Hicks currently serves (2022) as commanding officer of Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command and Commander, Task Force 1020, whose mission is to execute defensive cyber operations and enable global power projection through proactive network defense. She is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Project Management Professional, designated joint qualified officer, a member of Navy's space cadre community, and holds degrees in professional physics, engineering management, and space systems operations.



### Capt. Kathryn P. Hire

A 1981 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Capt. Kathryn P. Hire, a naval flight officer, became the first woman in the military to be assigned to a combat aircrew in 1993 when she reported to Patrol Squadron Sixty-Two (VP-62). Hire later continued her Navy Reserve duty with various units based in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. Selected for astronaut training by NASA in 1994, she flew aboard two space shuttle missions. She was recalled to active naval duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of U.S. Naval Central Command staff. She served in the Navy for 35 years and achieved the rank of Navy Captain before retiring in 2012. Hire logged more than 3,400 flight hours in various aircraft, and more than 711 hours in space. She retired from NASA in 2019.



### Karla Horn

Karla Horn serves as Naval Sea Systems Command's comptroller (2022) and oversees the annual disbursement of more than \$40 billion to deliver warfighting capability to the Navy and Marine Corps. She earned the Joint Meritorious Unit Award in 2015 and 2003 and the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 2011.







## Rear Adm. Grace Murray Hopper

A computer science pioneer, Rear Adm. Grace Hopper was a programmer for the Harvard Mark I computer in the final years of World War II. Hopper's long Navy career began in World War II when she joined the Navy Reserve and served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. After working on the Mark computer programs, to include Mark II and III computers, she joined the Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation in Philadelphia—the company building UNIVAC I, the first commercial electronic computer. As a senior programmer with this company, she published the first paper on compilers for programming language. Through the 1950s, she continued to publish papers on

**“A computer science pioneer...”**

software and programming languages. She was part of the first meeting of CODASYL and instrumental in the development of COBOL—a standardized computer language. Her contributions to the Navy's computing infrastructure made her an invaluable asset to the service. After retiring from the Navy Reserve in 1966, at age 60, with the rank of commander, she was recalled and continued to serve until 1986 when she retired as a rear admiral. At the time of her retirement, at 79 years of age, she was the oldest commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. USS Hopper (DDG 70) is named in her honor. In 2020, the United States Naval Academy named its new center for cyber security Hopper Hall.



## Adm. Michelle Howard

A 1982 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Adm. Michelle Howard became the first Black woman to command a U.S. Navy combatant ship, USS Rushmore (LSD 47) (1999). She was the first woman promoted to the rank of four-star admiral (2014). Upon her promotion, Howard became the highest ranking woman in U.S. Armed Forces history and the highest ranking Black woman in Navy history. She served as Vice Chief of Naval Operations from 2014 to 2016. Howard also became the first woman four-star admiral to command operational forces when she assumed command of both U.S. Naval Forces Europe – Naval Forces Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command Naples (NATO) from 2016 to 2017. Howard retired from the Navy in 2017, after nearly 36 years of service.

**“...the first woman promoted to the rank of four-star admiral.”**





### Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class Ruth C. Isaacs, (from left) Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class Katherine Horton Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class Inez Patterson

In 1945, these pioneering women became the first Black Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) to enter Hospital Corps School at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.



### Lt. Cmdr. Kyleigh Hupfl

With a doctorate of pharmacy from Rutgers University and a masters in materiel logistics support from the Naval Post-Graduate School, Lt. Cmdr. Hupfl served the Navy and nation as part of the joint national response to the COVID-19 pandemic (2021). She provided pharmacy expertise during the initial stand-up of White House and FEMA task forces, as well as in direct pharmaceutical logistics planning and execution support to USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy while assigned to DLA Troop Support.



### Cmdr. Darlene Iskra

Cmdr. Darlene Iskra became the first woman officer to command a Navy ship when she took command of USS Opportune (ARS 41) in 1990. One of the first three women to become a diving officer, her first assignment was as the diving officer on USS Hector (AR 7), a World War II vintage repair ship. When more ships opened to women in the mid-1980s, Iskra requested a transfer and was assigned as operations officer aboard the USS Grasp (ARS 51) during its pre-commissioning and through the first year of commissioned service. She was selected for executive officer afloat and served on two different ships in a split tour, first aboard USS Preserver (ARS 8) and then USS Hoist (ARS 40). Seventeen days after she took command of the USS Opportune (ARS 41) in Naples, Italy, the ship was sent underway in support of Operation Desert Storm. Iskra retired from the Navy in 2000 after 21 years of service. After the Navy, she went to graduate school and earned a Ph.D. in Sociology, with a specialty areas in Military Sociology and Gender, Work, and Family. She taught for nearly 10 years and wrote two books about women in the military.

### Vice Adm. Mary Jackson

A 1988 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Vice Adm. Mary Jackson became one of the first women to serve in Combat Logistics Force Ships in 1989 and then on Cruiser-Destroyer (CRUDESS) ships in 1994, after the repeal of the combat exclusion law. A career surface warfare officer, she commanded USS McFaul (DDG 74). She was the first mother of two to command a destroyer. Jackson also served as the commander of Navy Installations Command, where she led the Navy's shore enterprise comprised of more than 53,000 personnel at 10 Navy Regions and 71 installations around the world. She retired from the Navy in 2020 after 32 years of service.



### Senior Chief Lace Johnson

Senior Chief Construction Electrician Lace Johnson enlisted in the Navy in 2002. After completing Basic Training, she attended CE "A" school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. She rose to the rank of senior chief and served in multiple Naval Mobile Construction Battalion tours as platoon commander. While stationed with the Navy contingency of the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service, she worked at U.S. Embassies in Ghana, Nepal, Algeria and Paris. She currently serves as the Training and Operations department leading chief petty officer for Naval Construction Training Center in Gulfport, Mississippi (2022).



### Constructionman Camella Jones

Constructionman Camella Jones was the first enlisted woman to serve in a naval construction battalion and the first to qualify as a heavy equipment operator. She joined the ranks of the Seabees in 1972.







## Rear Adm. Sara Joyner

A 1989 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Rear Adm. Sara Joyner became the first woman to command an F/A-18 squadron (2007) and the first to command a Carrier Air Wing (2013). During her career, she made several extended deployments in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Married to a former Strike Fighter pilot and Tactics Instructor and as a mother of two children she provides inspiration and mentorship regarding managing dual military careers with a family. She currently serves as the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs (2021).



## Cmdr. Kimberly Jones, from left, Cmdr. LaDonna Simpson, Cmdr. Kathryn Wijnaldum, and Cmdr. Kristel O'Cañas

2021 marked the first time four Black women commanding officer of USS OakHill (LSD 51), Surface Warfare Officers (Nuclear), served in command at the same time. They are: Cmdr. Kimberly Jones, commanding officer of USS Tortuga (LSD 46), Cmdr. Kathryn Wijnaldum, commanding officer of USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) and Cmdr. Kristel O'Cañas, commanding officer of USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41).

**"...the first time four Black women Surface Warfare Officers (Nuclear), served in command at the same time."**

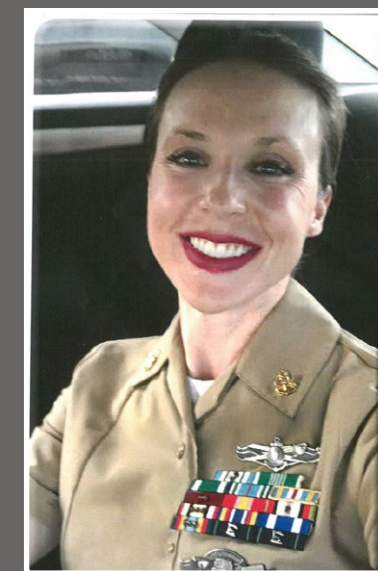
## Capt. Angela Katson

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Capt. Angela Katson's family immigrated to the U.S. when she was a young girl, and she grew up in New Rochelle, New York. She joined the Navy as an undesignated seaman in 1982 and reported to USS Point Loma (AGDS 02). After becoming a naturalized citizen and completing her degree at the University of San Diego, she commissioned as an officer and earned her surface warfare officer qualification while stationed aboard USS Acadia (AD 42). Katson then became a human resources officer and spent the next three decades helping others follow and achieve their dreams. She served as the Navy diversity and inclusion officer and then the OPNAV Education Strategy and Policy branch head. Katson is currently serving as the branch head, Enlisted Plans and Policy and deputy director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (2021). She is an ultra-marathoner who runs for relaxation and has a goal to run at least one 100-mile race.



## Senior Chief Shannon Kent

A specialist in cryptologic warfare and fluent in seven languages, Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Shannon Kent served multiple tours in Iraq, participating in numerous special operations that contributed to the capture of hundreds of enemy insurgents. She not only paved the way for greater inclusion of women in Special Operations Forces, but was also one of the first women to pass the Naval Special Warfare Direct Support Course. Kent was killed in action in Syria Jan. 16, 2019, and posthumously promoted to senior chief petty officer.







## Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben

Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben became the first woman chaplain at the U.S. Naval Academy. She was also the first woman to serve as the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Marine Corps, where she served from 2010-2014. Kibben was the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy from 2014-2018 and now serves as the first woman chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives (2022).



## Cmdr. Susan Kilrain

Cmdr. Susan Kilrain commissioned in the Navy in 1985 and as a naval aviator in 1987. She was selected to be a flight instructor in the TA-4J Skyhawk, and later flew EA-6A Electric Intruders for Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 33 (VAQ-33) in Key West, Florida. After completing U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, she reported to Fighter Squadron 101 (VF-101) in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for F-14 Tomcat training. Kilrain reported to the Johnson Space Center as an Astronaut Candidate in 1995. Following a year of training, she worked on technical issues for the Vehicle Systems and Operations Branch of the Astronaut Office. She served as spacecraft communicator in mission control during launch and entry for numerous missions. A veteran of two space flights, she logged nearly 472 hours in space. She flew as pilot on STS-83 (1997) and STS-94 (1997). Kilrain retired as an astronaut in 2002 and from the Navy in 2005.

## Rear Adm. Margaret “Peg” Deluca Klein

A 1981 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Rear Adm. “Peg” Klein became the first woman Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy and was responsible for 4,400 Navy and Marine Corps officer candidates. A designated naval flight officer, she qualified as mission commander and airborne communications officer in the EC-130Q in 1983. During her career, she served as the Secretary of Defense’s Advisor for Military Professionalism, Chief of Staff for U.S. Cyber Command and as director of operations for the Navy’s Network Warfare Command. In 2011, as commander of Expeditionary Strike Group Five, she commanded an American military force of five ships, 30 aircraft and more than 3,300 Sailors and Marines in combat operations in the Mediterranean Sea. Klein also commanded an aviation squadron and air wing. She retired from the Navy in 2017 with 35 years of service. She now serves as the Dean of Leadership and Ethics at the Naval War College (2022).



## Senior Chief Angela Koogler

Senior Chief Information System Technician (Submarines) Angela Koogler was the first woman selected as the senior enlisted leader for a submarine, also known as chief of the boat (2021). Koogler reported to her first submarine, USS Michigan (SSGN 272) Blue crew, in 2016, after a career as a Surface Information System Technician. She completed multiple deployments on Michigan and currently serves at Submarine Squadron 19, awaiting orders for her chief of the boat assignment (2022). She was awarded the 2020 Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award.



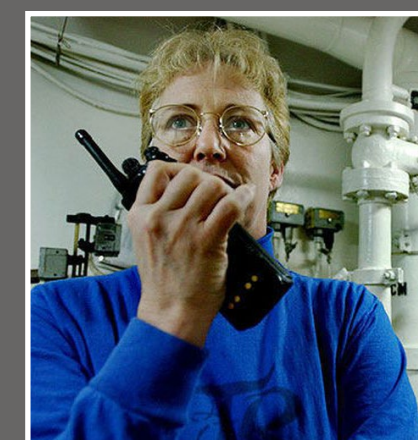
## Lt. j.g. Laura Krueger

Lt. j.g. Laura Krueger, a naval flight officer of an E/A-6B, was stationed with Electronic Attack Squadron 141 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in 2003 while it was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During a night strike as the Enemy Air Defense Suppression lead, Krueger and her team demonstrated extraordinary valor and expertise in the face of heavy enemy fire. She was awarded an Air Medal for her skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions.



## Command Master Chief Beth Lambert

In 1979, Command Master Chief Lambert became the first woman to be designated an Aviation Structural Mechanic (Structures). She went on to become the first woman to be selected as the U.S. Navy Shore Sailor of the Year in 1988, among the first women to be stationed on board an aircraft carrier (USS Dwight D. Eisenhower [CVN 69]) in 1994 and, ultimately, the first woman command master chief of an aircraft carrier when she was selected to serve on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in 2003. Lambert retired from the Navy in 2008 after 30 years of service.







## Command Master Chief Shay Craft Langejans

Command Master Chief (CMC) Shay Craft Langejans became the first woman fire controlman to reach the rank of master chief and one of the first women to serve as CMC of an aircraft carrier. In 2015, she received the Master Chief Anna Der- Vartanian Leadership Award, which is awarded annually to enlisted personnel who foster a positive work environment while reinforcing and furthering the integration of women into the Navy.



## Capt. Wistar "Star" Langhorne Hardison

Capt. Wistar "Star" Langhorne Hardison, a 1990 Villanova University graduate, became the first Black woman to commission through Villanova's Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. Her first assignment was to U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica, as the Public Affairs Officer, becoming the third Black Naval officer to deploy to the "ice." She went on to serve in a variety of tours as a general unrestricted line and human resources officer. Hardison retired from the Navy in 2016 after 26 years of service. She now serves as the Chief Learning Officer for the Office of Naval Intelligence (2022).

## Jennifer LaTorre

Jennifer LaTorre currently serves as the executive director for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) (2022). She is the senior civilian advisor to the NAVFAC Commander, responsible for leading all aspects of NAVFAC's business. LaTorre also served as the director, Total Force Manpower for Commander, Navy Installations Command from 2010-2015. She is the recipient of several awards, including the DON Superior Civilian Service Award (2015), DON Meritorious Civilian Service Award (2006) and Commander Navy Region Northeast Civilian Employee of the Year (2000). In 2021, she was named an honorary Seabee in recognition of her extraordinary and continuing support to NAVFAC and the Seabees.



## Capt. Tamara Lawrence

Capt. Tamara Lawrence is a Duke University graduate who commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer before laterally transferring to Public Affairs. During her more than 20-year career, Lawrence served as the public affairs officer to the Secretary of the Navy and Naval Special Warfare. As the wife of a Surface Warfare Officer and mother of three, she serves as an inspiration to many dual military families. She currently serves as the Public Affairs Officer for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Naval Forces Africa (2022).



## Capt. Wendy Lawrence

A 1981 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Capt. Wendy Lawrence became the first woman Naval Academy graduate to go into space in 1995. A Navy helicopter pilot with 11 years of service, Lawrence earned more than 1,500 hours flight time in six types of helicopters and made more than 800 shipboard landings. While stationed at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SIX (HC-6), she was one of the first two women helicopter pilots to make a long deployment to the Indian Ocean as part of a carrier battle group. Selected by NASA in 1992, Lawrence reported to the Johnson Space Center in 1992. She completed one year of training and qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. A veteran of four space flights, Lawrence has logged over 1,225 hours in space. Lawrence retired from NASA in 2006.



## Chief Kathryn Leiphart (left)

Chief Fire Control Technician Kathryn Leiphart was the first woman Fire Control Technician on submarines. She was assigned to the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) Blue Crew (2017). She went on to become the first woman Fire Control Technician detailee, where she is currently assigned (2022).







### Yeoman Helene Lipman

Yeoman Helene Lipman served in the Navy from 1944-1946 during World War II. She said, “I joined for two reasons. Patriotism. It was World War II going on, and I really wanted to help.” Yeoman Lipman was stationed in Jacksonville, FL. “We were the pioneers,” she said. “Before, no women were allowed in the Navy, except for nurses. We weren’t allowed to leave the United States proper, so I felt we didn’t do as much as the men. We did what we could.”



### Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Amanda Little

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Amanda Little was a member of a Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Shib Koh District in Farah Province, Afghanistan, in 2010. Little is one of many Navy women who have served as part of Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in Iraq and Afghanistan. These teams undertook gender-suited tasks to engage with local women and adolescents in situations where male service members’ involvement would have been culturally inappropriate.



### Susan Morrissey Livingstone

Susan Morrissey Livingstone became the first woman to serve as Acting Secretary of the Navy (2003). She held many positions in government, including the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment (1989), where she was responsible for a wide range of programs including military construction, installation management, energy and environmental issues, domestic disaster relief and restoration of public infrastructure to the people of Kuwait following Operation Desert Storm; and Undersecretary of the Navy (2001), in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

### Rear Adm. Deborah A. Loewer

Rear Adm. Loewer was among the first women officers to be selected for shipboard duty and became the first warfare-qualified woman to attain flag rank (2003). She attended the Surface Warfare Basic Course in 1979, and graduated first in her class. She served aboard USS Yosemite (AD 19), USS Yellowstone (AD 1), and USS Monongahela (AO 178). She commanded USS Mount Baker (AE 34) (1993), USS Camden (AOE 2) (1998) and Mine Warfare Command (2005). She went on to serve as the director of the White House Situation Room during the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She became vice commander of the Military Sealift Command in 2003, which made her second-in-command of the global transportation agency with a workforce of more than 8,000 and a fleet of more than 120 active ships whose primary mission is to move U.S. military cargo for deployed U.S. forces. Loewer retired from the Navy in 2007.



### Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Berly Lue

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Berly Lue, a recruiter assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group Houston, inspires and motivates people to join the Navy. She was the 2021 Commander, Navy Recruiting Command Enlisted Recruiter of the Year - active component, and is referred to as the ‘recruiter of the nation,’ because she outperformed more than 3,000 of her peers at 26 NTAGs across the nation to earn her spot as Navy recruiter of the year.



### Rep. Elaine Luria

A 1997 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Rep. Elaine Luria served in the Navy for 20 years, was stationed aboard six ships as a nuclear-trained Surface Warfare Officer and retired as a commander. Luria was one of the first women in the Navy’s nuclear power program and among the first women to serve the entirety of her career on combatant ships. She was elected to Congress in 2018 representing the 2nd district of Virginia,, and currently serves (2022) on the House Armed Services Committee as the Committee Vice Chair; on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs as the Chair of Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee; and on the House Committee on Homeland Security.







### Ensign Kathleen Lux

Ensign Kathleen F. Lux became the first woman officer in the Civil Engineer Corps when she entered the Navy Reserve (1942). Lux served as an assistant in the office of Commodore C.P. Conrad, director of the Construction Department.



### Logistics Specialist 1st Class Brandi Maddox

Logistics Specialist 1st Class Brandi Maddox joined the Navy Reserve in 2012 and continues to support warfighting efforts. Maddox deployed in 2021 as a lead fuel accountant for Expeditionary Fuels Detachment, assigned to Commander, Task Group 56.3, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Forward, Bahrain. She also previously served as an individual augmentee and deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.



### Cmdr. Elizabeth Malecha

A 1994 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Cmdr. Malecha, a naval flight officer, became the first woman to graduate from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program (2001); the first woman to serve as an instructor at the Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic and Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific; and the first woman to serve as an F-14 Training Officer when she reported to the VF-103 Jolly Rogers (2004) and subsequently deployed with Carrier Air Wing 17 aboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67). Malecha served on active duty until 2006 and then transitioned to the Navy Reserve in 2009. She currently serves as the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet N5/N7 executive officer (2021).

### Rear Adm. Connie Mariano

Rear Adm. Connie Mariano became the first Filipino-American woman promoted to rear admiral; the first woman to become the director of the White House Medical Unit; and the first military woman to be appointed as the White House Physician. Mariano retired from the Navy in 2001 after 24 years of service and joined the Mayo Clinic of Scottsdale, Arizona.



### Capt. Rosemary Mariner

Capt. Rosemary Mariner was one of the first women to enter Navy pilot training and to earn her Wings of Gold in 1974. Her mother was a World War II Navy nurse and her father a member of the U.S. Army air corps. Mariner graduated from Purdue University in 1972 wanting to serve. She was the first woman to graduate from the aeronautical program, where she earned a degree in aviation technology before joining the Navy in 1973. She went on to become one of the first Navy jet pilots, flying both the Douglas A-4C Skyhawk and the LTV A7E Corsair II; and became the first woman to command an operational squadron, leading VAQ-34 during Operation Desert Storm. She retired from the Navy in 1997 after 24 years of service. Mariner died in 2019 from cancer, and her funeral featured the first known all-Woman pilot flyover who performed a Missing Woman Flyover in her honor.



### Master Chief Angelica A. Martelle

Master Chief Naval Aircrewman Angelica A. Martelle was the first woman naval aircrewman to become a master chief (2020). She qualified as a Naval Aircrewman in 2005 and converted to Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) in 2008. In 2009, she was selected as Commander, Fleet Logistics Center South West Sailor of the Year and then as one of the "Top Five" Sailors of the Year for the Navy Reserve. In 2016, she attended the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, Rhode Island, and graduated at the top of her class. She is currently assigned as the senior enlisted leader at Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 64 at Joint Base McGuire, New Jersey.







## Force Master Chief Laura Martinez

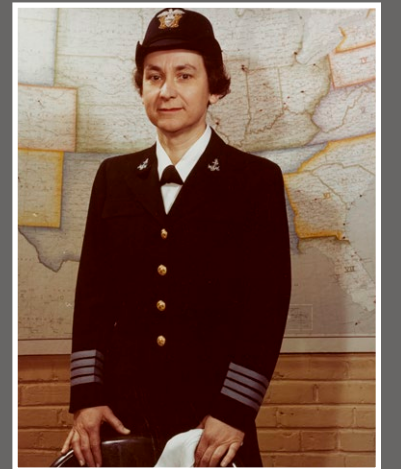
Master Chief Laura Martinez became the first Black person and second woman to be selected as force master chief of the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (2007). A Fleet Marine Force-designated specialist, she also held command leadership positions and served as command master chief at Naval Hospital Okinawa, with 2nd Health Clinic Corpus Christi in 2009.

Marine Logistics Group, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, and at the Field Medical Training Battalion-East (FMTB-East). She retired from the Navy in 2011 with more than 32 years of service. Shown here listening to Petty Officer 2nd Class Sarom Meas at Naval

**"...first Black person and second woman to be selected as force master chief of the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery."**

## Capt. Mildred McAfee

Capt. Mildred McAfee (Horton) was the first woman commissioned as a line officer in the Navy Reserve in 1942. A 1920 graduate of Vassar College, she went on to earn a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in 1928 and then became the President of Wellesley College in 1936. McAfee took a leave of absence to join the Navy Reserve. Commissioned as lieutenant commander, she immediately undertook the demanding task of director of the Navy's newly-established Women's Reserve. In 1943, following the passage of new legislation by the Congress, she was promoted to the rank of captain. She was the first director of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) (1942- 1945) and oversaw the service's growth to a force of more than 100,000 Navy women in a variety of occupational specialties. She continued on active duty until 1946, when she returned to the Presidency of Wellesley College.



## Command Master Chief Samira McBride

Master Chief Samira McBride was the first woman awarded the Master Chief Del Black Leadership award (2020) for her unwavering dedication to mission success, as well as the resiliency and mentorship given to all Sailors aboard her ship, the USS Gonzalez (DDG 66). The award is named for the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Master Chief Gunner's Mate Delbert Black.



## Cmdr. Kathleen McGrath

Cmdr. Kathleen McGrath worked in the U.S. Forestry Service until 1980 when she joined the Navy. McGrath was deployed to the Western Pacific, the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas. McGrath commanded the rescue and salvage ship USS Recovery in 1993 and 1994. In 1998, McGrath became the first woman to command a frigate when she became the commanding officer of USS Jarrett (FFG 33). She was one of five women, including Michelle Howard, Maureen Farren, Ann O'Connor, and Grace Mehl, to be the first woman commanding officers of combatant ships in the U.S. Navy.







## Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Amanda McDevitt

Master Chief Amanda McDevitt was the first enlisted woman to be stationed aboard a submarine in 2016, the USS Michigan (SSGN 727), where she completed two deployments. McDevitt is currently serving as the Force Medical Master Chief for the Submarine Force (2021).

**“...first enlisted woman to be stationed aboard a submarine.”**

## Rear Adm. Fran McKee

Rear Adm. Fran McKee became one of the first two women to attend the Naval War College in 1969, and subsequently the first woman line officer to attain flag rank in 1976. Commissioned in the Navy in 1950, McKee served in administrative roles at Naval Air Station Port Lyautey, Morocco (1957), Damage Control School, San Francisco, California (1958), on the staff of the Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training (1962), officer-in-charge of the Naval Women Officers School, Newport, Rhode Island (1965), and as a personnel officer at Naval Station Rota, Spain. After attending the Naval War College, she served in special roles at the Chief of Naval Personnel, and became the first woman selected to command a Naval Security Group. After her promotion to rear admiral (lower half), she served as director of naval education development at the Naval Education and Training Command, Pensacola, Florida, and assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for human resource management with additional duty as assistant deputy Chief of Naval Operations for human resource management (1978). She was promoted to rear admiral (upper half) in 1978. McKee retired from the Navy in 1981 after 31 years of service.



## Lt. Janie L. Mines

A 1980 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Lt. Janie L. Mines became the first and only Black woman, among the first group of women, accepted to the academy in 1976. She became the first Black woman to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy and became a supply officer. She served as a supply officer and held numerous positions throughout her naval career, including as a senior advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. She is a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. Mines left the Navy to earn a Master's of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1998) and has held positions in management at several corporations, including Procter & Gamble and Hershey Foods, and was the Senior Vice President of Strategic Sourcing at Bank of America.



## Kathryn Murphy

Kathryn Murphy currently serves as the senior scientific technical manager for software engineering at Naval Warfare Information Center Atlantic (2021). She was named the 2019 Women in Defense Palmetto Chapter's "Female Executive of the Year."







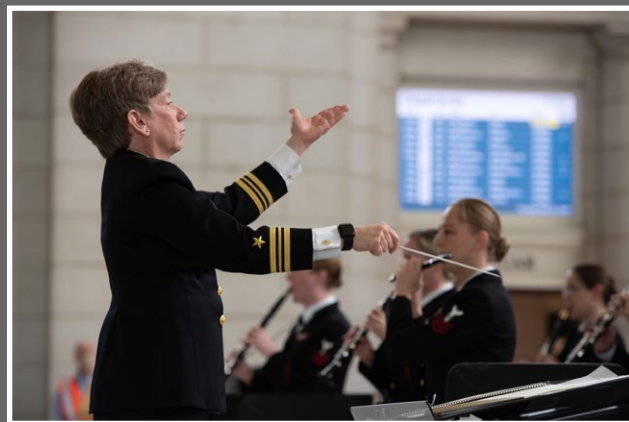
## Elizabeth Nashold

Elizabeth Nashold serves as the deputy commander, Naval Information Forces (2022). A former civil engineer corps officer, Nashold assumed her current duties in 2019. She leads a team of more than 500 military and civilian professionals and directly manages an annual budget of approximately \$1.2 billion. Nashold is also responsible for the man, train and equip functions for Navy information warfare (IW) and Fleet C5ISR (command, control, communications, computers, combat systems, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) capabilities for 88 subordinate operational shore commands and 21,000 personnel.



## Lt. j.g. Judith Neuffer

Lt. j.g. Judith “Judy” (Neuffer) Bruner became the first woman to fly solo in an aircraft and the first to become a P-3 Poseidon pilot in the Navy. One of the first women to qualify as a naval aviator in 1973, Neuffer logged several thousands of hours piloting the P-3. She was the first woman P-3 aircraft commander and the first woman to pilot an aircraft through the eye of a hurricane. She transferred to the Navy Reserve and continued her service as commanding officer of three units, and as the Navy’s Science and Technology Reserve Program director. She retired from the Navy in 1998 after 28 years of service. Bruner began her career at NASA in 1981, where she serves as the Director of the Goddard Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate (2021).



## Cmdr. Diane Nichols

Cmdr. Diane Nichols was the first woman Limited-Duty Officer Bandmaster promoted to the rank of commander (2021), a milestone for the almost 50 years of women’s service to Navy Bands. Commissioned as a Navy Bandmaster in 2005, Nichols served as the assistant director and director of the U.S. Naval Academy Band, director of Navy Band New Orleans, director of Navy Band Southwest, and executive officer of the U.S. Navy Band in Washington.

## Vice Adm. Nancy Norton

Vice Adm. Nancy Norton became the first woman, and only the second Navy flag officer, selected as the Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Commissioned in 1987 through the Navy Officer Candidate School, Norton served as the director, Command, Control, Communications and Cyber Directorate, U.S. Pacific Command; director of Warfare Integration for Information Warfare (OPNAV N2N6F); vice director, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA); and from 2018 to 2021 as director, DISA and commander, Joint Force Headquarters Department of Defense Information Network (JFHQ-DODIN). She served as a fellow on Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Strategic Studies Group XXXII and is a recipient of a Navy League Award; a Young AFCEAN Award; the Copernicus Award; and the National Security Agency’s Frank B. Rowlett Award for personal achievement in Information Security. Norton retired from the Navy in 2021 after 34 years of service.



## Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roseanne Oliveros

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roseanne Oliveros became the third Seabee woman to graduate Second Class Dive School in 2000. She then completed First Class Dive School in 2004 as the honor graduate. In 2009, Oliveros became the first, and, as of 2022, only, enlisted woman in the U.S. Navy to become the officer in charge of a diving detachment. She has volunteered twice to deploy to Iraq, serving six-month tours in 2003 and 2007. In 2010, Oliveros became the first woman Navy diver selected for chief warrant officer. That same year, she was elected to the Women Divers Hall of Fame, joining an elite group of diving professionals.



## Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige

Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige became the first woman Engineering Duty Officer promoted to flag officer in 1996. The granddaughter of a World War II chief yeoman, she commissioned in the Navy in 1971 and was designated an Engineering Duty Officer in 1981. While attending the Engineering Duty Officer Basic Course, she was awarded the Vice Adm. Bryan Award for academic excellence. In 2001, she became the Missile Defense Agency’s first Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System Technical Director, and in 2003, became the Program Director, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), the sea-based element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) under development by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Paige retired from the Navy in 2005 after 34 years of service.







## Command Master Chief Laura S. Nunley

Master Chief Laura S. Nunley was the fifth woman to be selected as a command master chief (CMC) of an aircraft carrier when she became the CMC of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). Selected as a CMC in 2011, she also served as the CMC of USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) and Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15). In 2021, Nunley became the first woman selected as the deputy MCPON, where she currently serves (2022).

**"In 2021, Nunley became the first woman selected as the deputy MCPON..."**

## Petty Officer 3rd Class Yona Owens

Petty Officer 3rd Class Yona Owens was instrumental in securing the right for women to serve aboard ships. She enlisted in the Navy in 1973 and in 1976 launched a class-action suit (Owens v. Brown) against the Navy arguing that regulations prohibiting women from serving on board ships were unconstitutional. The court ultimately ruled in her favor in 1978, and by autumn of that same year the law was amended to allow women to serve at sea.

**"...was instrumental in securing the right for women to serve aboard ships."**





## Hospitalman Elena J. Peckenpaugh

In 1972, Hospitalman Elena J. Peckenpaugh was part of the first Navy team of women trained at the Fire Fighting School, Naval Station, Treasure Island, San Francisco. Following training, she was assigned to the first U.S. Navy ship with a mixed male-female crew.



## Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens (left) Ensign Frances Wills

Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens and Ensign Frances Wills became the first Black women commissioned as officers in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) (1944). Pickens, who graduated as the top ranking member of her officer candidate program class, served as a physical training instructor while Wills was assigned as a classification test administrator. By the time World War II ended in 1945, Pickens and Wills were the only two Black women officers among the Navy's 86,000 WAVES.



## Dr. Susan J. Rabern

Dr. Susan J. Rabern, who served both on active duty and as a Navy civilian, became the first director of the Center for Leadership & Ethics at the Virginia Military Institute. On active duty she served on Chief of Naval Operations staff and Joint Chiefs of Staff. She retired in 2001 from the Navy as a captain. She was then appointed as Assistant Director & Chief Financial Officer and later selected as a member of the Senior Executive Service with the Federal Bureau of Investigations. She held positions with the U.S. Customs Service and U.S. Agency for International Development before being appointed as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller) in 2013. After retiring from her Navy civilian career, she received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Virginia and taught at the Virginia Military Institute.



## Giao Phan

Giao Phan began her Navy civil service career in 1984 and became the first woman to serve as Naval Sea Systems Command's executive director (2021). In this capacity she serves a global workforce of more than 85,000 military and civilian personnel who execute the research, development, acquisition, maintenance, modernization, and inactivation of the Navy's Fleet. Additionally, she is leading the NAVSEA transformation office responsible for executing the Naval Sustainment System-Shipyard effort

**"...first woman to  
serve as Naval Sea  
Systems Command's  
executive director."**

to reduce the maintenance durations of submarines and aircraft carriers to generate greater warfighting capability for the fleet. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award (2019), Asian American Government Executives Network Stanley Suyat Memorial Leadership Award (2016), USCG Superior Achievement Award (2013), Federal Asian Pacific American Council Outstanding Individual Leadership Award (2013), and Women of Color STEM Career Achievement in Government Award (2010).





## Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen Rainey

Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen Rainey became the first woman to qualify as a U.S. naval aviator when she earned her Wings of Gold (1974) and was among the first women naval aviators to qualify as jet pilots. She was assigned to fly C-1s in Alameda, California, and became the first jet-qualified woman in the U.S. Navy to fly the T-39. She transferred to the Navy Reserve in 1977 until 1981, when she was recalled to active duty to help the Navy fill a shortage of flight instructors. She was assigned to VT-3 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Florida, flying the T-34C Mentor. In 1982, she was killed in a crash while teaching touch-and-go landings at Middleton Field near Evergreen, Alabama.

## Operations Specialist 1st Class Sade Robinson

While serving at Navy Talent Acquisition Group Carolina in 2021, Operations Specialist 1st Class Sade Robinson was recognized as the “Region East Onboarder of the Year” and the “Onboarder of the Year” out of 26 commands due to her dedication and commitment to the Navy and fleet. She was meritoriously advanced to petty officer 1st class for her outstanding efforts in recruiting the best-qualified women and men for active-duty and reserve enlisted and officer service for America’s Navy.



## Logistics Specialist 1st Class Tchilalou Riggs

Logistics Specialist 1st Class Tchilalou Riggs, a native of Togo, applied for the diversity visa lottery program in 2005 and was selected to become a U.S. citizen. Now, a Navy Reserve Sailor, she is the leading petty officer of the N4 logistics department at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, guiding Sailors and supporting the force’s supply needs. Riggs’ story may have begun with a measure of luck, but her journey from her home in a small, West African nation on the Gulf of Guinea, to now leading Sailors at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, is an example of hard work, perseverance and making the most of every opportunity.

## Lt. Cmdr. Linda Rodriguez

Lt. Cmdr. Linda Rodriguez joined the U.S. Navy Reserve in 2001. She was recalled to active duty in 2006 following the attacks of 9/11 in support of “Operation Vigilant Mariner” and “Operation Iraqi Freedom.” During this time, she served as a Master-At-Arms conducting anti-terrorism force protection for U.S. Navy vessels and Merchant Marine sealift command ships in 5th Fleet. Following demobilization in 2008, she received her commission through Officer Candidate School and began her work in logistics, where she currently serves (2022). In her civilian career, Rodriguez joined the U.S. Customs and Border Protection as a federal law enforcement officer in 2008, where she currently works as the chief of operations (2021).



## Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Robinson

Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Robinson became the first Black woman to become a U.S. Navy naval aviator when she earned her Wings of Gold in 1980. In 1978, Robinson was one of 10 women in the nation chosen to begin the Navy’s flight program, one of three to graduate from her class and the 42nd to graduate in U.S. history. She then became the first woman to certify for C-1A carrier onboard delivery carrier landings in 1981. She amassed 115 carrier landings while transporting mail, cargo, and passengers to aircraft carriers. Her entire career is peppered with firsts for Black women in the U.S. Navy: flight instructor, evaluator, and VIP transport pilot to name a few. In 1992 Robinson transitioned to the Navy Reserve and became one of the first Black women pilots at American Airlines, where she flew for 17 years. Robinson retired from the Navy Reserve in 2002 after 25 years of service.



## Command Master Chief Hedy Roger-Jones

Senior Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Hedy Roger-Jones was the first senior enlisted woman assigned to a strike fighter squadron. She went on to become a command master chief, and retired from the Navy in 2009. Today, she serves as the Director at Fleet and Family Support Center in Lemoore, California (2022).







## Cmdr. Emily Royse

Cmdr. Emily Royse became the first woman Warfare Tactics Instructor to command at sea when took command USS Rushmore (LSD 47) in 2021 after serving as the ship's executive officer and fleeting-up. Royse enlisted in the Navy in 1992 as an Electronics Technician. Selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral program, she was commissioned in 2003 after graduating from Old Dominion University.



## Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra

Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra became one of the first women to serve aboard a Navy submarine. She was the first enlisted woman to earn her submarine qualification, or "dolphins" (2016), while embarked aboard USS Ohio (SSGN 726), just prior to deploying aboard USS Michigan (SSGN 727).



## Senior Chief Norma Schrader

During World War II, Senior Chief Norma Schrader served in the WAVES, Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service. She was recalled to active duty from the Naval Reserve during the Korean Conflict. Schrader served as a Master-at-Arms and retired from the Naval Reserve as a Senior Chief Yeoman in 1965. She also retired from civil service at Naval Station Charleston, South Carolina after 20 years. She is a Charter Member of the Military Women's Memorial and was honored with their Living Legend Proclamation on her 100th birthday. She is also a Life Member of Triangle Women Veterans Unit 144 of Military Women Across America.



## Anne Sandel

Anne Sandel currently serves as executive director at the Office of Naval Research (2022), where she is responsible for the oversight of coordination, execution, and promotion of science and technology for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Previously, she served as the founding executive director in the Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems.

**"In 2020, the American Society of Naval Engineers awarded its most prestigious accolade... to Sandel for her outstanding contributions to the Navy and nation over her career..."**

In 2020, the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) awarded its most prestigious accolade, the Harold E. Saunders Award for Lifetime Achievement, to Sandel for her outstanding contributions over the course of her career to the Navy and nation.





### Cmdr. Mary Sears

Commissioned in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) in 1943, Cmdr. Mary Sears served as the head of the Navy Hydrographic Office's new Oceanographic Unit where her research proved critical to the survivability of submarines. Following the war she was appointed the first officer-in-charge of the newly established Division of Oceanography. She transferred to the Reserve in 1947 and retired as a commander in 1963. She was a member of nine scientific and honorary societies and was a longtime member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI).



### Rear Adm. Gayle Shaffer

Rear Adm. Gayle Shaffer became the first dentist to serve as the deputy chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; deputy surgeon general of the Navy; and director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division (2022). She served in many roles at sea and ashore and has deployed as an individual augmentee. She served as the officer-in-charge of the Expeditionary Medical Facility, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. She also deployed as commanding officer of the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support, Train, Advise, Assist Command-South.



### Capt. Katie Sheldon

A 1999 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Capt. Katie Sheldon was chosen as the Navy's Female Athlete of the Year 2001, and was named MVP of the All Armed Forces Volleyball team at the International Military Sports Council world championships. She has deployed multiple times as a Surface Warfare Officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She transitioned to the Navy Reserve in 2005, where she has commanded at every level. She also has supported her husband's Navy career for more than 21 years, encompassing 17 moves and seven deployments-including three commanding officer ship tours-all while raising their three children.

### Rep. Mikie Sherrill

A 1994 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Rep. Mikie Sherrill served nearly a decade in the Navy. She flew missions throughout Europe and the Middle East as a Sea King helicopter pilot. She holds several advanced degrees to include a law degree from Georgetown University. She was elected to Congress in 2018, representing New Jersey's 11th district, and currently serves (2022) on the House Armed Services Committee; Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations; House Science, Space, and Technology Committee; House Education and Labor Committee; and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment. She is also the Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Tactical Air & Land Forces.



### Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic

Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic became the first woman to command Naval Supply Systems Command, the first woman selected as the Chief of the Supply Corps (2018), the first woman in the Supply Corps selected for Vice Admiral (2020), and first woman selected as the director of the Defense Logistics Agency (2002). She currently serves as the director of DLA (2022). She was previously forward-deployed as commander, DLA Support Team in Kuwait, where her team, in concert with other DLA activities, supported U. S. Central Command, U. S. Army Central, and other department of defense organizations in sustaining the warfighter's requirements for Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.



### Senior Chief Jackey Smith

Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Jackey Smith became the first woman combat photographer in the Navy to be awarded the Bronze Star. Smith is a breast cancer survivor and was announced cancer free in 2019. In 2021, she currently serves aboard USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) as the command senior chief.







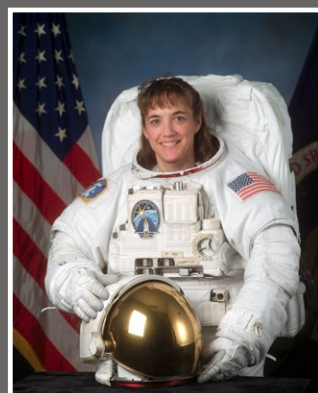
## Melissa Smoot

Melissa Smoot serves as the Submarine Integrated Power Systems Advisor at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), where she provides technical advice and stewardship to address design, testing, and performance issues, as well as create the processes, specifications, and standards that support current and future capabilities. Smoot retired from the Navy in 2007 after 25 years of service, where she served as an Engineering Duty Officer. Her tours of duty spanned different communities and experiences, to includes operational, maintenance, acquisition, nuclear propulsion, and Naval Special Warfare.



## Senior Chief Elizabeth Stafford

Senior Chief Yeoman Elizabeth Stafford is a model example of resiliency and fortitude. She is involved in Sailorization and a mom of two young children. Stafford is a breast cancer survivor who discovered one week after her diagnosis that she was pregnant. She endured nine months of chemotherapy and delivered her healthy baby in 2021. Stafford currently serves as a flag writer in the Pentagon, runs the Legacy Academy for Chief-selects at the USS Constitution, and serves as the Chief Petty Officers' Association president.



## Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper

Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and became a Naval Salvage Officer. She completed several tours of duty as an Engineering Duty Officer in the area of ship maintenance and repair, qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard USS Grapple (ARS 53), and served at Naval Sea Systems Command as the Underwater Ship Husbandry Operations Officer for the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (1994). She is a qualified and experienced salvage officer. Her major salvage projects include de-stranding the tanker Exxon Houston off the coast of Barbers Point, on Oahu, Hawaii, and developing the plan for the Peruvian Navy salvage of the Peruvian submarine Pacocha. She was inducted into the Women Diver's Hall of Fame in 2007. She is also a former NASA astronaut. She flew on two Space Shuttle missions, STS-115 and STS-126, during which she completed five spacewalks totaling 33 hours and 42 minutes. Stefanyshyn-Piper retired from NASA in 2009 to return to the U.S. Navy and went on to command Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division and Southwest Regional Maintenance Center. She retired from the Navy in 2015 after 30 years.

## Cmdr. Sara Stires

Cmdr. Sara Stires became the first, and as of 2022, only, woman in the U.S. Navy to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroic actions taken while serving as the Radar Intercept Officer of an F-14B Tomcat Aircraft in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001. After serving nine years as a Naval Aviator, Stires now serves as a Navy Oral Surgeon at the U.S. Naval Academy and is the first Dental Officer in school history to be in charge of Brigade Medical.



## Command Master Chief Marluis Stokes

Master Chief Marluis Stokes was the first woman selected to be the command master chief of a Carrier Strike Group in 2018. She served as Carrier Strike Group 12 Command Master Chief and embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). She's currently the CMC at Operational Test and Evaluation Force (2021). She continuously prioritizes training and readiness and ensures Sailors, to include herself, have the skills needed to fight and win.



## Dr. Kathy Sullivan

A retired Navy Reserve officer, Capt. Kathryn Sullivan holds the distinction of being both the first American woman to walk in space (1984) and the first to dive to Challenger Deep, located in the Marianas Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans (2020). Sullivan served in the Navy Reserve from 1988 to 2006 as an oceanography officer. Sullivan joined NASA in 1978 and among the first astronaut groups to include women. She left NASA in 1993 after flying on three Space Shuttle missions and logging 532 hours in space.







## Lt. Charlene Suneson

Lt. Charlene Suneson was the first woman line officer to be ordered to shipboard duty in 1961. Suneson reported for duty aboard the P-2 transport ship USS General W. A. Mann (AP 112) and was assigned to assist the transportation officer. Her duties were restricted to those of a seagoing purser, handling financial accounts and various documents relating to the ship. Her final duty station in New York led to Suneson's affiliation with the New York chapter of the women's rights group National Organization for Women (NOW). She received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California with a certificate in Gender Studies. She remained heavily active with NOW throughout her life, and is now an independent sociologist and activist for women's rights (2022).



## Capt. Kaye Sweetser

Dr. Kaye Sweetser, APR+M, began her military journey in 1996 on active duty as a seaman apprentice journalist. Sweetser has a career of extraordinary experiences in her wake and is a battle-tested public relations practitioner. Educated using the Navy's tuition assistance program and the Montgomery GI Bill, Sweetser commissioned into the Navy Reserve as a public affairs officer in 2001. This Afghanistan war veteran is currently a professor of public relations at San Diego State University and a leader in her field (2022). At SDSU, she's the director of the Glen M. Broom Center for Professional Development in Public Relations and the program coordinator for the Joint Military Service Military Public Affairs Officer Graduate Program. In 2021, PRNEWS named Sweetser the Outstanding Educator of the Year.



## Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle

As a Lt. j.g., Madeline Swegle became the Navy's first Black woman to become a tactical air pilot when she earned her 'Wings of Gold' in 2020. Swegle is part of a new generation of TACAIR pilots to qualify on the state-of-the-art aircraft launch and recovery equipment unique to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), the electromagnetic aircraft launch system and advanced arresting gear. She completed carrier qualifications in 2020 and is stationed at Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ-130) at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington (2022).

## Command Master Chief Josephine Tauoa

Command Master Chief Josephine 'Tauoa was the Navy's first Samoan woman promoted to command master chief in 2020. Tauoa enlisted in the Navy in 1996 as a Machinist's Mate. A modern-day trailblazer, she's been proving herself for the last 24 years, with tours aboard USS Simon Lake (AS 33), USS Coronado (AGF 11), USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Wasp (LHD 1), USS Halsey (DDG 97) and USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93), where she currently serves as command master chief (2022). She earned a Distinguished Leadership Award while serving as a Recruit Division Commander (2009) at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois, and was named the Afloat Trainer of the Year 2017-2018 while serving at Afloat Training Group Norfolk (2016). In 2021, Tauoa was named the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Delbert D. Black Leadership Award recipient.



## The Twelve Anchors

Several Navy nurses were captured by the Japanese at the fall of Manila in 1942 and remained in a prison camp until 1945. Initially serving in the infirmary at a prison camp in Santo Tomas, they voluntarily transferred to the prison camp at Los Baños, despite its notoriously poor conditions, to care for internees there. They were liberated from captivity in 1945. Shown here are liberated Navy nurses with Vice Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid (1945). All of the nurses received the Bronze Star and a Prisoner of War medal. Left to right: Susie Pitcher, Dorothy Still, Basilia Stewart, Goldie O'Haver, Eldene Paige, Kinkaid, Mary Chapman, Laura M. Cobb, Maureen Davis, Mary Nelson (née Harrington), Helen Gorzelanski, Bertha Evans, Margaret Nash, Helen Grant, and Edwina Todd.



## Lt. Victoria Thornton

Lt. Victoria Thornton is a Navy Nurse and the department head of the only integrated Department of Defense and Veteran's Affairs facility in the country, the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois (2022). Instrumental in planning and operations for the intensive care unit's response to COVID-19, she actively deployed ICU nurses, including herself, to assist in FEMA efforts for pandemic relief. Thornton contributed to the Navy in lasting ways at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and also served as the only critical care nurse at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. While there, she developed a 10-week sustainable trauma training curriculum program for Reserve corpsmen and medical staff.







### Capt. Kathy Manley Thorp

Capt. Thorp served for 37 years as a Navy Nurse and retired in 2017. After losing her husband, Navy Capt. Owen Thorp, to cancer in 2017, Capt. Kathy Manley Thorp became part of a group of military spouses whose persistence ended the “widow’s tax,” a legal offset that cost young military widows thousands of dollars annually.



### Vice Adm. Jan Tighe

A 1984 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Vice Adm. Jan Tighe was the first woman to command U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, U.S. 10th Fleet (2014). She was also the first woman to command a numbered fleet, and the first woman Information Warfare Officer promoted to flag rank. She previously served at Naval Security Group Activities in Florida, Virginia, and Japan, Naval Information War Activity, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, and the 66th Director of Naval Intelligence. Tighe served in several staff assignments with the Headquarters of the Pacific Fleet, Naval Security Group, and Naval Network Warfare Command. She retired from the Navy in 2018 after 34 years of service.



### Hull Technician 3rd Class Donna Tobias

Hull Technician (DV) Tobias was one of the first women to become a Navy deep sea diver in 1975. She asked her recruiter about becoming a diver when she enlisted in the Navy in 1974 and was told “no way, women can’t get in.” Undeterred, she chose hull technician as her rating because she liked the physical labor and knew it would teach her a useful skill. While she worked as a shipfitter, Tobias undertook the lengthy process of acquiring a dive school waiver that would allow her to circumvent the gender restriction then in place. Tobias became the first woman to graduate from the Navy Deep Sea Diving School. She was not granted sea duty orders due to being a woman, so her first duty was becoming an instructor at the Submarine Escape Training Tank at Submarine Naval Base in New London. Tobias was involved in search and salvage operations in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, and participated in the sinking of a World War II ship to construct an artificial reef in Chesapeake Bay. She served for eight years.

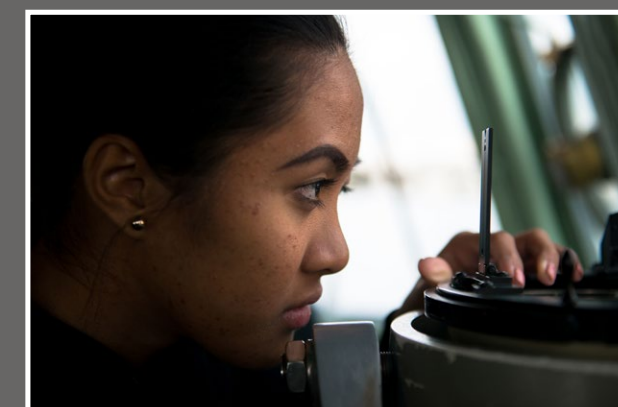
### Vice Adm. Patricia Tracey

Vice Adm. Patricia Tracey was the first woman to be promoted to vice admiral in the U.S. Navy. She held the positions of chief of Naval Education and Training, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, and director of Navy Staff until her retirement in 2004. At that time, she was also the senior-ranking woman officer in the U.S. military.



### Ensign Regine Tugade-Watson

A 2020 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Ensign Regine Tugade-Watson is a World Champion in athletics and a Guamanian sprinter. She was one of was one of five Guamanian athletes who participated in the 2016 summer Olympics. While at the academy, during a match between Navy and Army, Tugade set an indoor national record for the 60m run with a time of 7.67. After graduating, she reported to the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7). While aboard, she prepared for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics by running sprints on the flight deck. She carried the Guam flag at the 2020 opening ceremony.



### Vice Adm. Nora Tyson

Vice Adm. Nora Tyson became the first woman to command a carrier strike group (2010). She embarked with USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) in the Mediterranean Sea on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th fleets. Commissioned in the Navy in 1979, Tyson had many firsts throughout her career: she was the first woman to command the forward-deployed Singapore-based Task Force 73; the first woman to command a battle fleet, and the first woman to serve as Commander, 3rd Fleet (Eastern Pacific). She retired from the Navy in 2017 after 38 years of service.







## U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1980

Shown here are some of the first 55 women to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. Since 1980, nearly 5,000 women have graduated from the Naval Academy and have gone on to excel in their military careers and beyond.



## Ensign Marcia Villavicencio

Ensign Marcia Villavicencio joined the Navy as an undesignated seaman and commissioned as an officer in the Navy Reserve in 2020. A self-proclaimed fitness fanatic, small business owner and Reservist, she took her positive pro-fitness message to the fleet when she starred in a MyNavyHR fitness video inspiring Sailors to get moving on their own during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Villavicencio says a constant source of stability in her life has been the integration of her family life with her Navy career, something that wasn't always an option for military members in the LGBT community. She is proud of the way she brings diversity to the Navy, just by being herself.



## Terry Jo Voss

Terry Jo Voss became the first woman coxswain in the U.S. Navy. During her career she served on both the East and West coasts, in addition to Pearl Harbor, where she became the first woman Sailor to captain the Navy ferry that services the USS Arizona Memorial.

## Lt. Victoria Voge (left) Lt. Jane McWilliams

Lieutenants Victoria Voge and Jane McWilliams became the Navy's first two women flight surgeons in 1973. Voge received orders to Pennsylvania, where she worked in medical research. McWilliams (later Capt. Jane Hardman) became a flight surgeon for visiting patrol squadrons in Iceland. She went on to serve more than 20 years in the Navy as a flight surgeon and aviation pathologist. Although retired in 1993, Hardman briefly returned to service after Sept. 11, 2001, serving as the laboratory director at Naval Hospital Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.



## Chief Yeoman (F) Loretta Perfectus Walsh

Chief Yeoman (F) Loretta Perfectus Walsh became not only the first woman to serve in the Navy, and its first woman chief petty officer, but also the first woman to serve in a non-nursing capacity in any branch of the armed forces when she enlisted in 1917. She served as a Yeoman (F) in the U.S. Navy Reserve during World War I.



## Master Chief Sally A. Webster

Master Chief Legalman Sally A. Webster, a Navy Reserve Sailor, earned several awards recognizing her continued excellence, to include the Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Public Service Award (2021) and the Rear Adm. Hugh H. Howell, Jr. Award of Excellence. Webster is the command master chief of the Navy Reserve Law Program (NRLP) and senior enlisted advisor to the deputy judge advocate general for Reserve Affairs and Operations (DJAG RA&O).







## Capt. Jordine Von Wantoch

In 1970, Capt. Jordine Von Wantoch was instrumental in changing the Navy's policy that prevented women naval officers from also being mothers. When she became pregnant, she petitioned the Chief of Naval Personnel to remain on active duty, using the basis that she could only be denied her retirement through disciplinary action. In 1970, the Secretary of the Navy granted her a waiver on the condition she submit a request for voluntary retirement, effective as soon as she became eligible, which at the time would have been seven years later. Her daughter, Lian, was born at Coronado Hospital in 1970, and Jordine became the first

**"...was instrumental in changing the Navy's policy that prevented women naval officers from also being mothers."**

woman naval officer allowed to remain on active duty to complete a career while raising a child. Once the policy was officially changed in 1974, she successfully petitioned to remove the resignation letter from her file. She promoted to captain in 1978. Her final assignment was as commanding officer of Personnel Support Activity, San Diego. Her command was awarded the Silver Anchor Award for high morale and mission achievement under her leadership. In 1986, she also became the Grey Turkey, an informal award to the longest-serving active duty woman line officer for her "indomitable spirit of survivability." She retired in 1986 after 30 years of service.

## Fleet Master Chief Suz Whitman

Force Master Chief Suz Whitman enlisted in the Navy in 1985 as a yeoman and became the first woman to serve as the Pacific Fleet Senior Enlisted Leader (2015). Whitman served aboard the aircraft carriers Nimitz (CVN 68) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), as well as Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3, submarine tender USS Holland (AS 32), Navy Recruiting District Boston, and multiple other commands. In 2011, she was selected as the Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award recipient and the Navy League's Capt. Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership. Whitman retired from the Navy in 2018 after more than 32 years of service.



## Lt. Kendra Williams

Lt. Kendra Williams was one of the first women who trained to become a fighter pilot (1997) and later became the first woman fighter pilot to deliver a payload of missiles and laser-guided bombs in combat during Operation Desert Fox (1998). She piloted an F/A-18 over Iraq as part of the attack force that launched from the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) in the Arabian Gulf.



## Capt. Sunita Williams

A 1987 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Capt. Sunita Williams is a NASA Astronaut. Designated a naval aviator in 1989, she served at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 8 in Norfolk, Virginia, and made overseas deployments to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and the Persian Gulf in support of Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. In 1992, she was the officer-in-charge of an H-46 detachment sent to Miami, Florida, for Hurricane Andrew Relief Operations aboard USS Sylvania (AFS 2). She was selected for Naval Test Pilot School and after graduating in 1993, she flew in several types of aircraft and was assigned several leadership roles. She then was assigned to USS Saipan (LHA 2), as the aircraft handler and the assistant air boss when she was selected for the astronaut program. She has logged more than 3,000 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft. Williams, who has spent a total of 322 days in space on two missions, now ranks sixth on the all-time U.S. endurance list, and second all-time for a woman astronaut. In 2012, she became the first person to complete a triathlon in space. She also ran the Boston Marathon in Space.





## Lt. Deborah Wilson



In 1972, Lt. Deborah Wilson was among the first group of women to be admitted into a coed Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and was one of the first seven women who participated in Purdue's first coed ROTC unit. Following graduation, Young reported to Navy Facilities Command Midway Island, where she qualified as an operations watch officer. Shown in the photo, which was taken right after commissioning, are the original women from the first Purdue ROTC coed unit from left to right, Deborah Wilson, Patty Young, Renee Jeremiah and Lucy Young. Lucy Young went to flight school and ultimately left the Navy to become a civilian pilot. Jeremiah and Wilson became communications watch officers. Wilson commissioned as one of the last undesignated unrestricted line officers, and served on active duty for 13 years as a lieutenant.



## Capt. Dianna Wolfson

Capt. Dianna Wolfson was one of the Navy's initial group of women surface nuclear officers in the 1990s, and then became the first, and as of 2022, only woman to command a public shipyard – Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in (2019). She then became the first woman to command Norfolk Naval Shipyard in its 253-year history in 2021.



## Lt. Matice Wright-Springer

A 1988 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Lt. Matice Wright-Springer became the first Black woman to qualify as a naval flight officer in 1993. She logged thousands of flight hours in both the EC-130 and the E-6 aircraft. After serving in the Navy, she was presidentially appointed to serve as a White House fellow at the Department of Treasury. She returned to government service a few years later as a member of the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Defense. She currently serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors and as a senior vice president at Booz Allen's aerospace business (2021).



## Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)

The Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) played a critical role in the Navy during World War II, serving as machinists, metalsmiths, and instructors. During World War II, nearly 100,000 women served in the WAVES, many in administrative or office jobs, but nearly one-third of WAVES were assigned naval aviation duties. The Navy recruited college educated women with experience in engineering, math or physical science as officers in the WAVES, like WAVES member and later

**“...WAVES played a critical role in the Navy during WWII...”**

Navy Reserve Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, a computer science pioneer who oversaw the development of the first compiler and the first programming language to use word commands in the 1950s. The WAVES integrated into the regular Navy when the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act of 1948, allowed women to serve in the peacetime military with some restrictions. Capt. Joy Bright Hancock and Chief Edna Young became some of the first women sworn into the regular Navy (1948).





## Capt. Elizabeth Wylie

Lt. Elizabeth G. Wylie became the first woman to serve in Vietnam on the staff of commander, Naval Forces, Saigon in 1967. She worked in the Command Information Center as part of the staff. She would spend three to six days each month in the field taking pictures and gathering information. Wylie retired as a captain after serving more than 30 years. After retirement, she became an executive director of a military educational foundation.



## Chief Yeoman Edna Young

Chief Yeoman Edna Young (center) became the first enlisted woman, and also the first Black enlisted woman, to be sworn into the regular Navy (instead of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) or Women's Naval Reserve) in 1948. She later became the first Black woman promoted to chief petty officer. She retired from the Navy as a chief.



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Know someone who should be included in this book? Send your nomination to [cno\\_pao\\_staff@us.navy.mil](mailto:cno_pao_staff@us.navy.mil).



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